

## **Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee Minutes of Monday, August 25, 2003**

The Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee met on Monday, August 25, 2003, in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Municipal Government Center, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

### Members Present

Elizabeth Whiting, Chair  
Vice Mayor Mervin Jackson

Peg Coleman  
Sandy Kane

### Town Staff Present

Calvin Grow  
Nick Colonna

### Citizens present

Craig Lane

1. *Minutes:* On motion by Calvin Grow, seconded by Sandy Kane, the minutes of the August 4, 2003 meeting were unanimously approved.
2. *Public Comment:* There was no public comment.
3. *FY '04 Traffic Calming Projects:* Calvin Grow reported that: (a) Staff are working on preparing final estimates for the proposed projects and looking for ways to cut the cost for installing these traffic calming measures. For example, because the Town has a contractor doing a large volume of milling and repaving, he is looking at having that contractor do those portions of work for the impressed pedestrian crossings, and having Superior Paving Corporation do only the reheating and imprinting in accordance with their City of Alexandria bid. (b) As a related matter, the Town had the handicap ramps installed at Hague Drive, S.W. and Meade Drive, S.W. (at \$1,000.00) and Kincaid Boulevard, S.E. and Patrice (at \$1,667.60). These monetary sums will come from the Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee budget. (c) Calvin thought it would be useful to bolster the planned Country Club Drive, S.W. "before" study with "after" results of speeds along Clubhouse Drive, S.W. since the painted improvements were similar in function and intent. However, the stealth numeric counters were pried out of the roadway and apparently stolen. Replacements are available in time to do the Southwest studies scheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup>. (d) A meeting will be conducted August 26 at 6:30pm on the proposed square corner installation at Edwards Ferry Road, N.E. and Catocin Circle, N.E. Because the original stop sign installation followed extensive canvassing of the neighborhood (Edwards Ferry Road, N.E. from Harrison Street, N.E. to Mayfair Drive, N.E. for up to two blocks north along the same stretch), Liz Whiting had suggested that notice for making the installation permanent need only go to the immediate neighborhood of the intersection. Neither Liz Whiting nor Calvin Grow was aware of what area was selected to get the mailing. When Liz Whiting noted that this essentially will be the third time this project has been approved, Calvin Grow indicated that the direction to hold the meeting came from the

Town Manager's Office and, in response to Peg Coleman's question as to holding meetings on the other improvements, indicated that he would seek clarification, since the Town had been marking pedestrian crossings on a routine basis without any outreach.

4. *Way Finding Program Update:* Liz Whiting reported that she and Calvin Grow had met with Betsy Fields and Marantha Edwards to, again, see if any funds could be leveraged from the Way Finding project to supplement the South King Street/Fairfax Street, S.E. discussions. The signs marking entry and exit from the Historic District are in the second round of improvements; however, if the bids come back sufficiently favorable, there is a chance that some additional round signs might be approved. Liz Whiting noted that the large signs, with significantly more involved installation and landscaping, are grouped in the second round and that Betsy Fields and Marantha Edwards wanted to know if funding for the landscaping amenities was being developed as part of the MainStreet Leesburg initiative. (See August 4<sup>th</sup> minutes for report of Liz Whiting's deployment to that undertaking.) Mr. Mervin Jackson emphasized that the Committee doesn't want to see its budget eaten up by landscaping installation costs.
5. *Sight Distance at North Street/North King Street (etc.):* (a) Calvin Grow reported that the County is required to fund installation of a traffic signal at this intersection as part of the Court expansion project and that staff were studying whether installation is currently warranted. Liz Whiting predicted that the limited sight distance would operate to cause even more accidents after a traffic signal is installed, with more serious results, as drivers will speed to "catch" the signal rather than creep out cautiously, as they must do now from either direction on North Street. (b) Calvin Grow and Liz Whiting also relayed the County traffic consultant's recommendation that some kind of "ramp" allow traffic to exit from the vicinity of the jail parking lot onto Edwards Ferry Road and various—albeit problematic—options available for getting Court traffic to Market Street without overwhelming nearby residential areas. Calvin Grow noted that one option was the installation of a signal at East Market Street/Church Street/Edwards Ferry Road, N.E. intended to let Court traffic exit onto Market Street; however, everyone agreed that the prospect of backing up Market Street traffic, especially stalling progress through the King Street signal, was troublesome. (c) Liz Whiting noted similar concerns with the planned signal at West Market Street /Loudoun Street/Morven Park Road, with that situation aggravated by the hill east of the intersection on East Market Street.
6. *All-way stop signs at Wildman Street and North Street, N.E.:* Calvin Grow reported that traffic counts going to and coming from Wildman Street, N.E. at this intersection were so low that staff did not believe all-way stops were warranted. Liz Whiting requested that a speed study isolating traffic continuing north on Wildman Street, N.E. from the western portion of North

Street be done since she felt the greatest danger is presented to westbound motorists on North Street, N.E. which must turn left across the intersection with little margin for error if eastbound North Street motorists speed into sight around the curve. Staff will provide speed study information for the October meeting.

7. *Day Care Center Late Fees:* Calvin Grow reported that the Town Attorney could find no authority for prohibiting or regulating late pick-up fees charged by day care providers; however, the Town Attorney noted that such matters might be addressed as part of the special exception process. Liz Whiting suggested that such fees might be more fair if set on a sliding scale so that someone running only a few minutes late didn't have a big incentive to speed, while later pickups bore a substantially higher penalty.
8. *Committee member concerns:* (a) Sandy Kane noted that she had approached Calvin Grow about marking a pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of Morningside House, an assisted living facility, to get pedestrians to the crosswalk across Harrison Street, S.E. to Raflo Park. Calvin Grow indicated that the crossing could be marked by the Town at the intersection of Depot Court, S.E. with Harrison Street S.E., but that the potholes noticed by Sandy Lane were the responsibility of the landowners, not the Town. (b) Mervin Jackson suggested that the Committee look at seeking mid-year budgeting for the shortfall in funding projects that have been presented to and approved by the Town Council in the last two budgets, but warned that he does not see the Council approving funds for any substantial improvements in the vicinity of South King and Fairfax Street, S.E. Liz Whiting noted that Mr. Jackson's suggestion builds on the decision at the last meeting to address the Council regarding shortfalls and the Committee's recommendations in light thereof. The Committee enthusiastically embraced the suggestion. Liz Whiting is to work with Calvin Grow to develop both the budget and narrative support for the submission. (c) Liz Whiting noted that the parking consultant's report is due September 4, 2003. Since the Committee was not originally deemed a "shareholder" or other input agency, it isn't clear what role it may have once the report comes in.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, October 6, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. Staff is to contact Liz Whiting if anything arises needing Committee consideration in the interim.